



STATE COURT ADMINISTRATION

Iowa Judicial Branch Building
1111 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

TODD NUCCIO
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

To: All Judicial Branch Personnel

From: Todd Nuccio
State Court Administrator

Subject: Fiscal Year 2021 Judicial Branch Budget

Date: June 30, 2020

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for the efforts each of you have made in providing access to the courts while mitigating the spread of Covid-19 during the past four months. Thank you for maintaining access to justice throughout the state for Iowans who need the protections provided by their court system. Thank you as well for your flexibility in continuously adapting to a fluid environment and for embracing the technology required to continue delivering justice through remote proceedings. I also want to say thank you for the input and guidance that has been offered as we cautiously prepare to resume face-to-face court services this summer and into the fall.

For the 2021 Fiscal Year beginning July 1, the Iowa Legislature has passed and the governor has signed an appropriations bill allocating \$181,023,737 to the judicial branch. This amount is \$500,000 less than the amount we received last fiscal year. With this action, the supreme court has now approved a judicial branch spending plan for the next twelve months. The plan provides for a 2.1% salary increase for all nonjudicial officer employees and should allow us to avoid court closure days. To balance the budget, the judicial branch will maintain the hiring freeze on current vacant positions and hold open new vacancies for at least 90 days. The judicial branch will also hold open all judicial officer vacancies occurring during fiscal year 2021 for at least 90 days and restrict travel for the next six months.

As you are aware, a large number of cases were postponed due to the pandemic. It is clear that we will be facing a large backlog when the new fiscal year begins. We also know that once face-to-face procedures recommence, the new scheduling process implemented to allow for social distancing will slow the daily process of hearing cases. The backlog and slower pace combined with the reduced budget will make the year challenging for everyone using our services. Patience will be required by parties and others as these cases work through the courts.

Please know that your safety and the safety of everyone using the courts remains our top priority. We will continue to carefully monitor the public health situation and balance the need to take measures to reduce the spread of the virus with our commitment to conduct business as necessary. As we all prepare for the many challenges ahead, you can be certain that the judicial branch supports and appreciates you and your work and will continue to do everything possible to ensure a safe resumption of face-to-face services.